

BOROUGH OF RUTHIN

ANNUAL

HEALTH REPORT

1967

Medical Officer of Health

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Public Health Inspector

- D. S. MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Town Hall, Ruthin.

Telephone No. Ruthin 2855.



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Ruthin.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

The Public Health Inspector and I have  
pleasure in presenting our report on the health of  
the Borough for the year 1967.

We wish to thank you, Mr. Mayor, the Chairmen  
of the various committees, and the members for the  
assistance given to us during the year. We would  
also like to thank the officials and members of the  
staff for their assistance whenever asked for.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS.

Medical Officer of Health.

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The Mayor of the Borough and the Chairmen of the  
Health Committees during the year were as follows:-

	January - May.
Mayor of the Borough:	Alderman O. Llewellyn Hughes.
	May - December.
	Alderman Ellis Davies.
Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee.	January - May.
	Councillor Ellis Davies.
	May - December.
	Alderman Mrs. H. Adam.

# GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area of the Borough .....	2016 acres
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population ....	3,790
Number of inhabited houses .....	1,266
Rateable Value (1.4.67) .....	£156,386
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£593. 3. 11.

The estimated population of the Borough was 3,790 compared with 3,790 in 1966.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,266 compared with 1,213 in 1966, an increase of 43.

## DEATHS.

Comparability Factor ..... 0.63

	England & Wales	1966	1967
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.2	15.83	14.5
Corrected Death Rate (per 1,000 population)		11.71	9.1
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)	14.8	38.4	48.7
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.2	Nil	24.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	18.3	40.0	25.6
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births, first 4 weeks)	12.5	40.0.	25.6
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	10.8	20.0	25.6
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total births)	25.4	57.7	73.1

The following table shows the number of deaths which occurred during the year.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total	Under	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
		all Ages	4 Weeks						
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Diabetes	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
	F	8	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	7	-	-	-	-	4	2	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Other Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Other Circulatory Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Pneumonia	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bronchitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pregnancy, Child-birth, Abortion	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All Other Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	25	1	-	2	1	6	7	8
	F	31	1	1	-	-	3	3	24



There were 56 deaths during the year compared with 60 the previous year, giving a death rate of 9.1 compared with 11.71 in 1966, and 11.2 for England and Wales. Of these deaths, 42 occurred in persons aged 65 years and over.

Cancer caused 9 deaths compared with 10 in 1966; 2 of these were due to lung cancer compared with 1 last year.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system caused 11 deaths compared with 11 in 1966.

Coronary disease and angina accounted for 12 deaths compared with 15 last year. 5 deaths were due to other heart diseases and other circulatory diseases caused 4 deaths.

Bronchitis was a cause of 2 deaths compared with 1 in 1966, and pneumonia caused 5 deaths.

Diabetes was the cause of 1 death and ulcer of stomach and duodenum caused 1 death.

Other defined and ill defined diseases accounted for 3 deaths.

There were 2 deaths from accidents, one in a patient aged 89 and the other 76. In both cases, falls to the floor caused fractures of the femur.

There was one death caused by pregnancy. This occurred in hospital and was due to causes which appear to have been unavoidable.

#### Still-Births.

The Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) was 48.7 compared with 38.4 in 1966 and 14.8 for England and Wales. The actual number of still-births was 2 compared with 2 the previous year.

#### Infant Deaths.

There was 1 infant death compared with 2 in 1966. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 23.6 compared with 40.0 in 1966, and 18.3 for England and Wales.

#### Maternal Mortality.

There was 1 maternal death, giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of 24.3 compared with nil the previous year and 0.2 for England and Wales.

#### BIRTHS.

Comparability Factor ..... 1.32

Actual number of births registered: 73  
Number of births relating to residents: 41

The hospital in Ruthin has a maternity unit which also caters for the surrounding areas. Births relating to residents in the Borough also take place in hospitals in adjoining areas. The births were classified as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate	18	19	37	
Illegitimate	2	-	2	
Still-births	1	1	2	
	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>41</u>	
	England and Wales, 1967		1966	1967
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 home population)	17.2		13.19	10.3
Corrected Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)			16.09	13.6

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As can be seen from the table, the following infectious diseases were notified during the year.

Notifiable Disease	Total 1966	Total 1967	Under 1 year	1 - 5 years	6 - 15 years	46 - 65 years
Dysentery	-	2	-	-	2	-
Measles	3	21	1	13	7	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	-	1	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS:	4	26	1	14	10	1

Twenty-six cases were notified compared with 4 in 1966. Of these, 21 cases were due to measles.

There were 2 cases of whooping cough compared to nil the previous year. Both occurred during the quarter ending in June, one in a school boy and the other in a pre-school child. Both were members of the same family.

There were 2 cases of dysentery which occurred during the first quarter of the year. Both cases were in school children and both attended the same school. It was difficult to trace the source of infection and to establish whether one case infected the other. The first case was notified in January and was clear of infection for about 2 weeks before the second case was notified. The second case was cleared by mid-March and no further cases were notified. Full precautions were taken at school to prevent the spread of infection and sewer swabs taken from the five schools in the Borough showed no pathogenic organisms.

### Tuberculosis.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified compared to 1 in 1966. One case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was removed from the register, the patient having died.

The following table shows the number of cases on the register at the beginning and end of 1967.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total.
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number on Register on 1st January, 1967.	6	3	3	-	12
Number on Register on 31st December, 1967.	7	3	2	-	12

### Anthrax.

There were no cases of anthrax notified during the year.

## PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

The following shows the number protected by prophylactic measures:-

	<u>Primary.</u>	<u>Booster.</u>
Diphtheria	47	122
Whooping Cough	44	32
Tetanus	47	71



### Poliomyelitis.

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Sabin Vaccine	32	52

### Smallpox.

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-vaccination</u>
27	1

### Tuberculosis.

The number of senior school children tested and given B.C.G. vaccination were as follows:-

Number of children tested .....	93
Number of children found to be positive.	23
Number of children found to be negative and given B.C.G. vaccination .....	65
Number defaulted: .....	5

Those found to be positive were followed up by chest examination at the Mass Radiography Unit, or at the nearest chest clinic.

### Mass Radiography Unit.

Number examined: .....	344
Number of visits: .....	13
Average attendance per visit: .....	28

The type of examinee was as follows:-

General Population .....	321
General Practitioner Referrals: .....	1
Contacts: .....	13
Scholars Mantoux Positive .....	8
Factory Groups - Non-Industrial .....	1

### Care of the Aged.

No cases of persons in need of care and attention were brought to our notice during the year and no action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act was taken. The services of the Health Visitors, District Nurses, Home Helps and Welfare Department are made available and assist the elderly to remain in their own homes.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

#### Food.

The number of food premises in the Borough is as follows:-

General Food premises (grocery etc.) .....	19
Public Houses and Hotels .....	10
Cafes and Restaurants .....	6
School Canteens .....	4
Kitchens in Hospitals and Old Peoples' Homes ...	2
Bakehouses .....	4
Butchers' Shops .....	10
Fried Fish Shops .....	5
Vans and Stalls .....	2

During the year 28 visits have been made to food premises.



### Unsound Food.

The undermentioned foodstuffs were certified as being unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned meat .....	34 lbs.
Tinned vegetables .....	4 lbs.
Tinned Fruit .....	100 lbs.
Evaporated milk .....	2 pints.

We wish to thank Mr. Owens, Chief Inspector for the County, for the following particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in the Borough, during the year ending 31st December, 1967.

Articles	No. taken.	Genuine	Not Genuine, or Sub-standard.
MILK	9	8	1
Bread	1	1	-
Cakes	1	1	-
Ice Cream	1	1	-
Beer	1	1	-
TOTALS:	13	12	1

Of the nine samples of retail milk submitted to the Public Analyst only one was the subject of an adverse report. This was a sample which was certified as being deficient in fat. The deficiency, however, was slight and the farmer responsible for producing and bottling the milk was visited, advised and cautioned. All other samples were found to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter. In addition to the usual test for quality, eight samples of 'farm-bottled' milk submitted were examined for the presence of antibiotics with a negative result in each case.

### Milk.

There are four main distributors in the Borough and a few other farms who are distributing on a small scale.

### Brucella.

No human cases were notified during the year. Following examination of samples of milk taken by the County Public Health Officer, two herds were found to be infected with Brucella Abortus. It was necessary to serve a notice under Section 20, Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, prohibiting the sale of milk from the infected cows unless it had been adequately treated before consumption.

### Ice Cream.

No samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough, and all the ice cream sold is manufactured by large firms who sample regularly throughout the country.

### Meat Inspection.

During the year 210 visits were made to the slaughterhouse for the purpose of meat inspection etc.

### Slaughterhouse.

There is one slaughterhouse in the centre of the town, and as regards slaughtering it is up to required standards. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have made their annual visits and are satisfied with the existing conditions prevailing there. During the year the whole premises have been repainted.

During the latter part of the year the Foot and Mouth restrictions covered the town and as animals were not able to be removed, there was a considerable increase in the slaughtering within the Borough, which are reflected in the figures below.

### Animals Slaughtered.

During the year the following number of animals were slaughtered:

Cattle .....	558
Calves .....	10
Sheep .....	5919
Pigs .....	712

### Condemned Meat.

The following meat and offal were rejected as unfit for human consumption:-

Ox Liver .....	280 lbs.
Sheep Liver .....	214 lbs.
Pig Liver .....	163 lbs.
Miscellaneous Offal .....	50 lbs.
Pigs' Heads .....	36 lbs.
Beef Carcase Meat .....	1085 lbs.
Sheep Carcases and Organs.	95 lbs.

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

25 visits have been made to these premises during the year and there are 73 registered premises within the Borough.

### Water Supply.

The water supply to the town is now the responsibility of the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board and samples of the water are being taken by the Council and the Water Board. The Board take their samples as a safeguard to ensure that their plant is working correctly and we, as a Public Health Authority, take samples so that the public are safeguarded against any error or breakdown which could not be foreseen.

The following samples have been taken by the Public Health Inspector:-

Date	Nature of Sample	Report
		Ministry of Health Classification:
10:1:67.	Chlorinated water from taps in Town Hall, Ruthin, and 82, Haulfryn, Ruthin.	Class 1 - Excellent.
17:5:67.	Chlorinated water from tap in Town Hall, Ruthin.	Class 4 - Unsatisfactory.
17:5:67.	Chlorinated water from tap in 12, Maes-y-Dre, Ruthin.	Class 4 - Unsatisfactory.
23:5:67.	Chlorinated water from tap in 5, Maes-y-Dre, Ruthin.	Class 4 - Unsatisfactory.

Date	Nature of Sample	Report
23:5:67.	2 samples chlorinated water from taps in 12, Maes-y-Dre and Town Hall.	Class 1 - Excellent (Both samples)
The following samples have been taken by the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board:-		
21:3:67.	Filtered water from pipe at Bathafarn Filter House, Ruthin. Raw water from tap at Efail Newydd Pumping Station, Ruthin.	
21:3:67.	Filtered and chlorinated water from chlorinating tank, Bathafarn Filter House, Ruthin.	Class 1 - Excellent
	Tap at Llanfair Road, Ruthin.	Class 1 - Excellent.
27:6:67.	Raw water from pipe, Bathafarn Filter House.	
12:9:67.	Raw water pipe in filter House Filtered water pipe in filter house at Bathafarn, Ruthin.	
12:9:67.	Filtered and chlorinated water from Chlorination Tank, Bathafarn Filter House, Ruthin.	Class 1 - Excellent.
12:9:67.	Raw water from tap, Efail Newydd Pumping Station.	
12:9:67.	Part filtered and chlorinated water from tap in house, Llanfair Road, Ruthin.	Class 1 - Excellent.
10:10:67.	Raw water from stream intake - from collecting Tank, Moel Fammau Water Works.	
14:11:67.	Filtered water from filtered water pipe, Bathafarn Filter House, Ruthin.	
14:11:67.	Raw water from Inlet Pipe, Bathafarn Filter House, Ruthin. Raw water from Efail Newydd Pumping Station, Ruthin.	
14:11:67.	Filtered and chlorinated water from Chlorination Tank, Bathafarn Filter House, Ruthin.	Class 1 - Excellent.
14:11:67.	Part filtered and chlorinated water from tap in house, Llanfair Road, Ruthin.	Class 1 - Excellent.



## Chemical analyses.

The following reports of chemical analyses of samples of water has been kindly sent by Mr. John Round, Engineer, West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board.

10th May, 1966.

Sample from raw water inlet at Filter house,  
Bathafarn. Impounding Reservoir, Bathafarn, Ruthin.

### Analysis

Appearance	clear, very slightly coloured.
Odour	nil
Reaction, pH	approximately 8.3
- parts per million -	
Total solids	180
Nitrogen as free & saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.25
Chlorides, as Cl	23
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	1.0
Total hardness	95
Temporary hardness	23
Permanent hardness	72
Alkalinity	23
Free Chlorine	nil
Potassium, as K	-
Anionic synthetic detergents	-
Manganese, as Mn	less than 0.025
Cyanides and thiocyanates	nil
Poisonous metals	nil
Fluorine	less than 0.1

Opinion: The chemical condition of this sample is satisfactory.

31st January, 1967.

Sample from Efail Newydd Bore, Ruthin.  
Tap in pumping station.

### Analysis

Appearance	clear & colourless
Odour	nil
Reaction, pH	6.6
- parts per million -	
Total solids	315
Nitrogen as free & saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.01
Nitrogen as nitrites	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	7.5
Chlorides, as Cl	24.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.4
Total hardness	215
Temporary hardness	154
Permanent hardness	61
Alkalinity	154
Free Chlorine	nil
Potassium, as K	2.0
Anionic synthetic detergents	-
Manganese, as Mn	0.08
Cyanides and thiocyanates	-
Poisonous metals	nil
Iron, as Fe	0.09
Free carbon dioxide	75

Opinion: The organic condition of this water is satisfactory.



### Lead Content in Water Supplies.

A sample was taken to determine the lead content, and was reported on as follows:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sample Mark</u>	<u>pH value.</u>	<u>Lead.</u> <u>parts per million.</u>
22.11.1967.	Ruthin. 9/46	6.9	Less than 0.1

### Housing.

The number of houses completed within the Borough during the year is as follows:-

Number of private houses and bungalows completed ... 43  
Number of Council houses, bungalows and  
flats completed ..... None

Total number of houses in the area is as follows:-

Houses:	4 bedroomed .....	1
	3 bedroomed .....	254
	2 bedroomed .....	42
	1 bedroomed .....	4
Bungalows:	2 bedroomed .....	50
	1 bedroomed .....	7
Flats:	1 bedroomed .....	20
	2 bedroomed .....	8
	Total:	<u>386</u>

The position regarding the applicants for Council houses during the year was as follows:-

Number of applicants on register, December, 1967... 179  
Number of new applicants during the year ..... 53  
Number rehoused during the year ..... 10

### New Council Houses.

During this year the Council have embarked on a scheme to build 120 three bedroomed houses and 20 old people's dwellings. Work is proceeding on the Rofton industrialised steel houses which have been accepted for this scheme.

It is anticipated that these houses will be completed by September, 1968, and this should clear the waiting list for people wanting Council houses. This is a very big scheme for the town costing over £408,000 and the Borough Surveyor/Public Health Inspector has the mammoth task of being Supervisory Officer for the Council with no architects being employed for this scheme. When this scheme is completed the number of Council houses in the Borough will increase by a quarter of the total, and as there is a large number of applications for these houses from people who live outside the Borough the population figures will rise considerably.

These houses are designed to Parker Morris standards and the layout is very pleasant. The greatest need for housing after this will be for old people, as there are already more than double the number of applicants for the 20 old people's houses. Unfortunately the number of old people's houses on this site was limited to 20 by the Ministry and a further 20 to 30 old people's houses should be built again to accommodate the waiting list.

### Improvement Grants.

The number of Discretionary and Standard Grants approved by the Council during the year is as follows:-

Number of Discretionary Grants ..... 1  
Number of Standard Grants ..... 0

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The new Sewage Works are operating satisfactorily and further mechanical aids are needed for disposing of sludge. A scheme for the improvement of the sewage works land has been undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries so that it can be returned solely for agricultural purposes. This work should now be put in hand to improve the waterlogged conditions and improve the agricultural value. Samples of the effluent have been taken and all the requirements of the Dee and Clwyd River Authority will be adhered to. Samples are taken every day to keep the B.O.D. and suspended solids of the water discharged to the river to below the Ministry standards required by the Board. A full time sewage works attendant is being employed at the work to ensure that it runs efficiently.

### Analytical Report on Final Effluent from the Sewage Works.

10th November, 1967.

pH..... 7.2  
Appearance ... Yellow-brown, turbid.  
Odour ..... Slightly earthy.

The following results (unless otherwise stated) are expressed in parts per million:-

Oxygen absorbed from acid n/80 $\text{KMnO}_4$ in 4 hours at 27°C (permanganate Value) ... ..	4.9
Biochemical Oxygen Demand in 5 days at 20°C ... ..	9.0
Chloride (as Cl) ... ..	36
Suspended Solids (dried at 105°C .. ..	31

REMARKS: Satisfactory.

21st December, 1967.

pH .... 7.3  
Appearance .... Grey-green, slight turbid.  
Odour ..... Faint earthy.

Oxygen absorbed from acid N/80 $\text{KMnO}_4$ in 4 hours at 27°C (Permanganate Value) ... ..	7.7
Biochemical Oxygen Demand in 5 days at 20°C ... ..	10
Free and Saline Ammonia (as N) . ... ..	1.1
Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	0.69
Total Oxidised Nitrogen ... ..	4.2
Chloride (as Cl) ... ..	56
Suspended Solids (dried at 105°C) .. ..	13

REMARKS; Satisfactory.

### Public Conveniences.

These have been maintained in a satisfactory condition but complaints have been received due to the dirty habits of people who use the toilets. They are cleaned every morning and damage and filthiness have occurred after the period of cleansing on numerous occasions. Without full time supervision this situation will not improve.

### Refuse Collection.

The town is served with a regular weekly collection of house refuse and approximately 1,650 bins are collected weekly. A paper sack system has been considered by the Council, but has been deferred for the time being.

### Refuse Disposal.

The refuse tip is being maintained in as clean a condition as possible and controlled tipping is carried out to the best of our ability,



having regard to the covering material and plant available and the extra loads brought in from the Ruthin Rural District Council. During the year the Ruthin Rural District Council deposited 932 loads at the tip.

#### Offensive Trades.

There are five fish frying establishments within the Borough and no complaints have been received about them during the year.

#### Rodent Control.

During the year 19 properties were successfully treated against rats and all infestations notified to the office are promptly dealt with.

The town sewers have been treated during the year with considerable success.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961.

#### PART 1 OF THE ACT.

#### 1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES  (1)	Number on Register  (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted  (5)
		Inspections  (3)	Written Notices  (4)	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	31	11	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	2	-	-
Total	41	13	-	-

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	2	-

WEATHER AT RUTHIN IN 1967.

We are grateful to the Headmaster at Brynhyfryd County Secondary School for the following remarks:-

Records kept at the Brynhyfryd County Secondary School, Ruthin Weather Station, show that 1967 was the wettest and sunniest year for some time with a distinct lack of severe night frosts, especially so during the early months. The weather conditions over the summer holiday months were better than in recent years.

The wetness of May, with twenty-eight wet days, and the fifty-six day period between 17 September and 11th November when there were only three completely dry days, will long live in the memory. The wettest calendar month since January, 1959, when the weather station was set up, was October, when 6.53 inches of rain was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 37.68 inches (in 205 days), compared with the annual mean of 30.97 inches (in 184 days). The wettest year during the last nine years was 1960, when 39.80 inches of rain fell in 208 days, while the driest was in 1964 with 21.25 inches in 161 days.

During the year there were 1,372.2 hours of bright sunshine, a



daily mean of 3.76 hours, the sunniest since the sunshine recorder was brought into operation four years ago. This is 130 hours more than the total for 1966. The sunniest month was June with a total of 225.0 hours, a daily mean of 7.50 hours. March was also a very sunny month with a total of 158.5 hours, making it a sunnier month than either of the months of July and August.

## PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

### Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway carries out bacteriological examinations of water, food, etc., to detect any contamination. Milk is also examined bacteriologically and biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus.

Examination of throat swabs, blood, faeces, etc., are carried out to detect the presence of bacteria and viruses at Conway Public Health Laboratory and at Rhyl Hospital.

### Ambulance Service.

The following is given for the information of the Council, and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage covered during the year.

	Denbigh/ Ruthin	Llanrwst	Llangernyw	Cerrig	Totals
Number of cases conveyed by ambulance	11,030	736	1,372	74	13,212
Total miles travelled	108,168	11,683	20,595	961	141,407
Number of ambulances per station	5	1	1	1	8
Whether manned by voluntary or full-time personnel	Full-time	1 full, part vol.	Full-time	Vol.	
Sitting case cars -					
	Number of journeys.	Number of cases.	Total mileage.		
	1522	7588	70,807		

### Mental Health Service.

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health. The Mental Welfare Officer for this area is Mr. Michael Watson, who may be contacted at the County Council Health Department, Mount Street, Ruthin. Tel. No. Ruthin 2361.

### Orthopaedic Clinics.

This clinic is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month. Surgeons from the Gobowen Orthopaedic Hospital attend on the third Wednesday in each month.

Patients from the Borough also attend Orthopaedic Clinics held weekly at Rhyl and Wrexham hospitals.

### Venereal Disease Clinics.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph.	Tuesday.	4.30 - 6.30 p.m.
War Memorial Hospital, Wrexham.	Monday (males)	5 - 7 p.m.
	Wednesdays (females)	5 - 7 p.m.

### Family Planning Clinics.

Clinics are held as follows:-

Nant-y-Clyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.	Monday, 2.30 - 3.30 p.m. Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m.
The Clinic, Fforddlas, Rhyl.	Wednesdays, 7 - 9 p.m.
The Clinic, Prestatyn.	Thursday, 10 - 11 a.m.
The Clinic, King Street, Mold.	Wednesday, 7 - 8 p.m.
The Infant Welfare Centre, Borough Grove, Flint.	Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m.
1, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham.	Thursday, 2 - 4.30 p.m. 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6.15 - 7.30 p.m.

### Cervical Cytology Clinics.

Clinics are held as follows:-

1, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham.	Thursday, 5.30 - 8 p.m. By appointment only.
Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.	Friday, 5 - 8 p.m. By appointment only.

and also by General Practitioners.

### Chiropody Clinics.

This clinic is held at the Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin, every Wednesday, by appointment. Patients are referred by General Practitioners, Health Visitors and District Nurses. A charge of 2/6d per treatment is made. The number of persons who attended during the year was as follows:-

Number on register:	126
Number of sessions held:	93
Number of appointments made:	531
Number of attendances:	450

The above figures include patients from the Rural District who attend this clinic.

### Chest Clinics.

Patients from the Borough attend the Chest Clinic held every Wednesday morning at the Denbigh Infirmary and at the weekly clinics held at the Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, and at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

### School Ophthalmic Clinics.

Clinics for school children are held at the Clinic Middle Lane, Denbigh, by appointment, and children attend Ophthalmic Clinics held at Denbigh and St. Asaph Hospitals, and at Dr. Enid Hughes' surgery.

### Child Guidance Clinics.

Clinics are held as follows:-

Bod Difyr, Cefn Road, Colwyn Bay.	Wednesday and Friday by appointment.
Gatefield Clinic, King's Mills Road, Wrexham.	Thursday and Friday, by appointment.
Mercier House Clinic, Russell Road, Rhyl.	Monday, by appointment.

### Infant Welfare Clinics.

This clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon between 1.30 and 3.30 p.m. at the Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin, and is well attended as can be seen from the following attendance figures.

Year of Birth.	First Attendances.
1967	88
1966	83
1965/62	70
Total Attendances: Under 1 year	600
1 - 5 years	267

Special transport to the Clinic is provided from the outlying districts at Eryrys, Llanferres and Maeshafn where there are no convenient buses.

### Welfare Foods.

Welfare Foods are sold at the Clinic, during clinic sessions.

### Dental Clinics.

No expectant mothers have attended this clinic since it has been in operation. Out of the few toddlers referred, only one has attended regularly for treatment. Possibly only a few are aware that this service is available as no ante natal clinics are now run by the Local Authority. Another contributory factor is that until the Ruthin Clinic was opened, those who would be eligible to attend were seen by private dental practitioners in the area.

Regarding school children, since Mr. Elton joined the dental staff, the Ruthin area schools have been visited regularly and the acceptance rate for treatment has been most satisfactory. In the last year every child of school age has received a dental inspection at school and where necessary, have been offered treatment. Those pupils living in villages where transport is not available are brought by ambulance to the clinic and returned to school after treatment. The ambulance department is most helpful in this respect, and without their assistance this service would not be possible.

It is pleasing to note that children attending the eighteen schools visited by Mr. Elton are now inspected at eight-monthly intervals.

An Orthodontist attends to treat children referred to him by appointment.

### School Health Attendant.

The School Health Attendant visited the schools in the area for the purpose of routine testing of children's vision and hearing. Children



who were found to have defective hearing and/or vision were followed up and referred to a Consultant for further examination where necessary. Colour vision tests are given to all boys at the age of 7 years.

The number of children tested during the year was as follows:-

	Vision Sweeps.	Audiometric Sweeps.
Number of children tested:	462	507
Number satisfactory:	452	484
Number of defects found:	10	23
Number referred to Medical Officer:	-	14
Number referred to School Nurse:	10	-
Number for observation:	-	9

#### Speech Therapy Clinic.

The Speech Therapist visits Ruthin Clinic each Monday afternoon, and treatment is offered to school children and those approaching school age. The children are referred by doctors, school nurses and head teachers and have a variety of speech problems varying from complete lack of speech and language development to mis-articulation of a single sound, and include stammerers. A number of children attend each week for treatment, and others may attend at intervals for advice. In some cases, particularly with younger children, direct treatment may be unnecessary, and advice re management is given to the parents. Close liaison is maintained with other departments in the School Health Service, and the Speech Therapist visits schools in the area to discuss problems with the staff, whose co-operation is greatly appreciated. The speech therapy clinic is always well attended and parents appear to be most grateful for the advice and treatment offered.

#### Nursing Services.

The following are the names and addresses of the nursing staff serving the Borough:-

Health Visitors: Miss C. J. Davies )  
Miss E. Edwards. ) County Council Clinic, Mount Street,  
Ruthin.  
Tel. No. Ruthin 2361.

Tuberculosis  
Health Visitor: Miss M. Lloyd Edwards, The Chest Clinic, Wrexham.  
Tel. No. Wrexham 4242.

District  
Nurse: Sister E. Owen, Flat 3, 20, Clwyd Street, Ruthin.  
Tel. No. Ruthin 2642.

Relief District  
Nurse: Sister Dowell, 23, Park Road, Ruthin.  
Tel. No. Ruthin 2489.

#### Domestic Help Service.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided was as follows:-

Chronic sick and T.B. ....	7
Others .....	4
Over 65 years of age .....	146
Mentally disordered .....	1





